

Formula 3a.

16. (previously amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 15 where the HF_2CO group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

17. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has
Formula 4a.

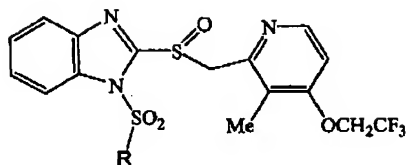
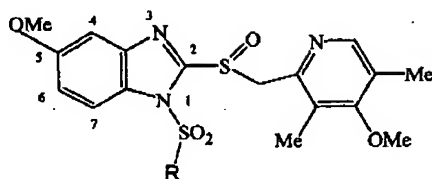
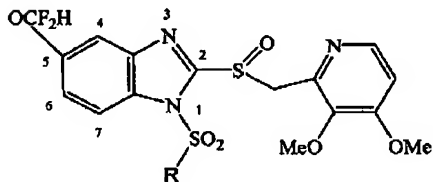
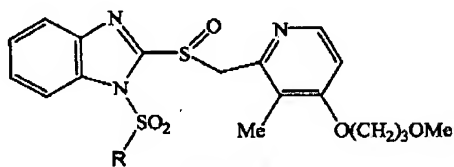
18. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

19. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that ~~includes~~ has only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen and R_1 is OCH_2COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring ~~relative~~ relative to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

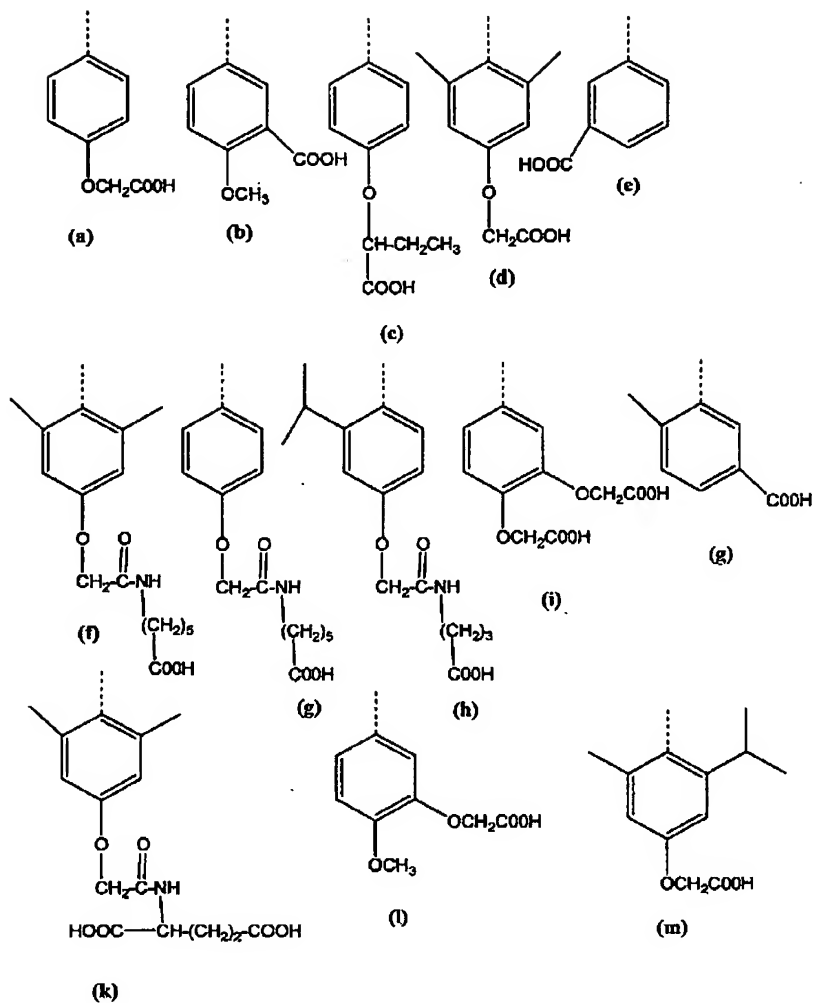
21. (original) A compound of **Formula 1, Formula 2, Formula 3**
or of **Formula 4**

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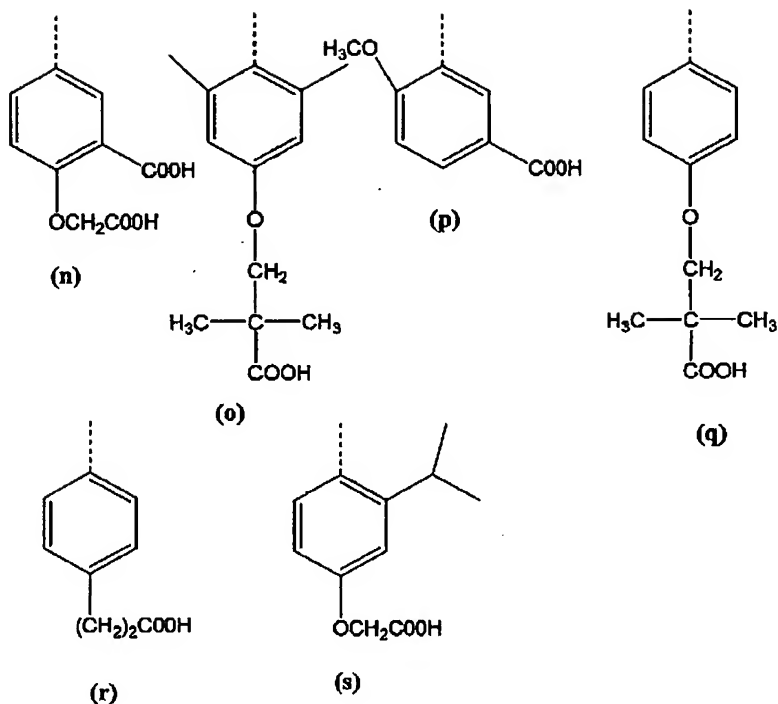
**Formula 1****Formula 2****Formula 3****Formula 4**

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2 and 3** where the OCH_3 , and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and
 wherein R represents the groups selected from **Formulas (a) through (s)**,
 the dashed line represents the bond connecting the R group with the SO_2 group,

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 1.
23. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 2.
24. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.
25. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 3.

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26. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF₂O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

27. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 4.

28. (canceled)

29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.

30. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.

31. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.

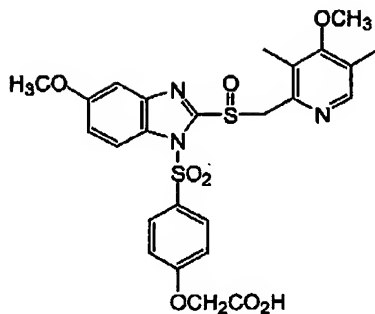
32. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 28.

33. (Canceled)

34. (new) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two R₃ groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

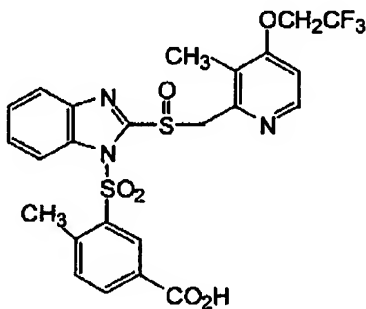
35. (new) A compound of the formula

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (new) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.